

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A polarizing plate comprising: a polarizer and a protective film laminated on one or both sides of the polarizer with an adhesive layer, wherein

the polarizer comprises a monolayer film having a structure having a minute domain dispersed in a matrix formed of an optically-transparent water-soluble resin including an iodine based light absorbing material, and

the adhesive layer is made of an adhesive that contains a resin curable with an active energy beam or an active material.

2. (Original) The polarizing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the minute domain of the polarizer is formed of an oriented birefringent material.

3. (Currently Amended) The polarizing plate according to Claim 2, wherein the birefringent material ~~shows liquid~~ is liquid crystalline at least in orientation processing step.

4. (Original) The polarizing plate according to Claim 2, wherein the minute domain of the polarizer has 0.02 or more of birefringence.

5. (Original) The polarizing plate according to Claim 2, wherein in a refractive index difference between the birefringent material forming the minute domain and the optically-transparent water-soluble resin of the polarizer in each optical axis direction,

a refractive index difference ( $\Delta n^1$ ) in direction of axis showing a maximum is 0.03 or more, and

a refractive index difference ( $\Delta n^2$ ) between the  $\Delta n^1$  direction and a direction of axes of two directions perpendicular to the  $\Delta n^1$  direction is 50% or less of the  $\Delta n^1$ .

6. (Original) The polarizing plate according to Claim 5, wherein an absorption axis of the iodine based light absorbing material of the polarizer is oriented in the  $\Delta n^1$  direction.

7. (Original) The polarizing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the film used as the polarizer is manufactured by stretching.

8. (Original) The polarizing plate according to Claim 5, wherein the minute domain of the polarizer has a length of 0.05 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$  in the  $\Delta n^2$  direction.

9. (Original) The polarizing plate according to Claim 1, wherein an iodine based light absorbing material of the polarizer has an absorbing band at least in a band of 400 to 700 nm wavelength range.

10. (Original) The polarizing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the adhesive is an active energy beam-curable solventless adhesive or a moisture-curable one-component adhesive.

11. (Original) The polarizing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the protective film has a bonded surface that has been subjected to at least one treatment selected from corona treatment, plasma treatment, flame treatment, primer coating treatment, and saponification treatment.

12. (Original) The polarizing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the protective film has an in-plane retardation  $R_e = (n_x - n_y) \times d$  is 20 nm or less and a thickness direction retardation  $R_{th} = \{(n_x + n_y) / 2 - n_z\} \times d$  is 30 nm or less,

where a direction of a transparent protective film in which an in-plane refractive index within the film surface concerned gives a maximum is defined as X-axis, a direction perpendicular to X-axis is defined as Y-axis, a thickness direction of the film is defined as Z-axis, refractive indices in axial direction are defined as  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$ , and  $n_z$ , respectively, and a thickness of the film is defined as  $d$  (nm).

13. (Original) The polarizing plate according to Claim 12, wherein the protective film comprises at least one selected from a resin composition containing a thermoplastic resin (A) having a substituted and/or non-substituted imide group in a side chain and a thermoplastic resin (B) having substituted and/or non-substituted phenyl group and nitrile group in a side chain, and the norbornene resin.

14. (Original) The polarizing plate according to Claim 1, wherein  
a transmittance to a linearly polarized light in a transmission direction is 80% or more,  
a haze value is 5% or less, and  
a haze value to a linearly polarized light in an absorption direction is 30% or more.
15. (Original) An optical film comprising at least one of the polarizing plate  
according to Claim 1.
16. (Previously Presented) An image display comprising at least one polarizing plate  
according to Claim 1.
17. (Previously Presented) An image display comprising at least one optical film  
according to Claim 15.